



*Office of Public Affairs
U.S. Embassy, Wellington*

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EMBARGOED UNTIL THE RELEASE OF THE REPORT IN WASHINGTON.
(Expected to be approximately 5:30 am June 13, NZ time)

NZ “DEMONSTRATES SUSTAINED EFFORTS TO PREVENT TRAFFICKING”

An U.S. Department of State’s *Trafficking in Persons Report* has given New Zealand a Tier 1 placing and has acknowledged the New Zealand government’s sustained efforts to prevent trafficking. (See attached background on tier levels.)

“We hope that the report will prove helpful to everyone working to stop the sexual exploitation of women and children—that is what is designed to accomplish. The report uses assessments of individual nations to illustrate the all-pervasive nature of this global problem,” said U.S. Ambassador Bill McCormick.

The narrative of this year’s report notes that the New Zealand Government is putting in place a national plan of action to combat trafficking in persons in general and any trafficking of women and children that may occur in New Zealand’s decriminalized sex trade in particular.

“We are looking forward to the public discourse about this issue as the New Zealand Government’s action plan is rolled out. The report recognizes the importance of the plan to building public understanding and support for the investigative, prevention, and enforcement activities of the government,” said Ambassador McCormick.

The report also acknowledges the New Zealand Government’s substantial support for organizations working with vulnerable populations, including organizations that work with potential trafficking victims.

For example, it welcomes New Zealand’s active participation in many regional and international efforts to prevent, monitor, and control trafficking, including funding protection programs in Indonesia, the Philippines, and the UN Inter-Agency Project (UNIAP) on trafficking in the Mekong sub-region.

“This is a global problem and the only way any of us can make progress is by all of us working together-- governments, NGOs and the general public all have a valuable role to play,” added the Ambassador.

The entire *Trafficking in Persons Report* will be available on-line at www.state.gov/g/tip shortly after the Secretary Rice's June 12 release.

BACKGROUND:

The U.S. Congress, through its passage of the 2000 Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA), requires the Secretary of State to submit this Report each year.

Countries evaluated in this Report are assigned to one of three tiers.

Countries assessed as neither complying with the minimum standards for the elimination of severe forms of trafficking, nor making significant efforts to do so, are classified as Tier 3.

Countries assessed as not fully complying with the minimum standards for the elimination of severe forms of trafficking, but making significant efforts to meet those minimum standards are classified as Tier 2.

Countries assessed as meeting the minimum standards for the elimination of severe forms of trafficking are classified as Tier 1.